from tim 1 to t; are the States impose jcver cut, " of varying degrees on different c: asses of consume 1

(b) Th». reasons for power shortage t are increase in demand and reduced hydro-generation on. *occent* of low reservoir level. Wit? a view. 0 improve the power supply position, efTo ts are being made to expedite commissioning of new capacity, improve the perfoiirance of thermal power stations, reduce the down time of Ihermal powe; ' ststvco? on fcrced outages etc.

Loss of Coai 544. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: WiV the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of coal is lost in the transit from the coal mines to the destinations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what arfl the estimated iOsse during the last tw. years ear-wise- and

(c) what steps are being contemplate'd by Government prevent such losses to future

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal companies sell coal on FOR colliery basis. After the coal is handed over to the Railways, it is not possible for the coal companies to have any control or assessment or loss of coaj in transit. However, the Railways have taken a number of steps to prevent the loss of coal during rail transit. These steps are:

(1) As far as possible, Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed to escort block-loads of coal wagons fa crime prone areas|sections.

(2) Vulnerable yards and affected places which are prone for thefts of coal are also patrolled by armed RPF men as well as by dog squads with a view *to* tracking down the criminals indulging in theft of coal.

(3) Fixed prickets are posted [deployed in vulnerable sections|black spots to prevent theft of coal from running trains.

(4) Crime Intelligence staff of the Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence about the activities of coal thieves and receivers and conduct raids on them for the recovery of stolen coal and arrest of criminalsjrecei-vers.

Discovery of Oil Resources....

545. SHRI KALPNATH RAI; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any new oil resources were, discovered in the off-shore regions and within the country during 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same indicating their potential; and

(c) what steps are being taken to exploit those resources commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Oil was discovered' in the following prospects: —

ONSHORE	
Kaikalur	Andhra Pradesh
Namti Shalmari	Assam
OFFSHORE	
R-71 CD	
CA B-42 R-7A	West Coast

The potential of the finds and the commercial exploitation will depend upon further delineating drilling.

Annual requirements of petroleum and petroleum products.....

546. SHRI KALPNATH RAI;. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of petroleum and its products;

(b) how much of the above was produced indigenously during 1986;

(c) the foreign exchange spent on imports of oil during 1986 to meet the country's requirements; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce the oil import bills in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The estimated requirement of crude oil and demand for petroleum products and their indigenous availability during 1986 were as under: —

(Million tonnes)

	Requirement/ demand	Indigenous availability
Crude Oil (Processing)	44.94	30.35
Petroleum products .	42.89	42.30

(c) The amount spent on import of crude oil and petroleum products during 1986 is estimated at Rs. 2519. 97 crores.

(d) Apart from fiscal measures, the other measures taken to reduce the import of crude and petroleum products include: —

(i) Intensification of exploration of forts and increasing production of crude oil.

(ii) Increasing refining capacity and implementing conservation schemes tO reduce fuel consumption within refineries.

(iii) Promotion of conservation activities by PCRA in various sectors of the economy viz. Industrial, Agriculture Transport and Domestic Sectors.

(iv) Encouraging the use of alternative fwtb.

Natural gas located in the country.

547. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pieased to state:

(a) the details of natural gas resour ces located so far in the country;

(b) the details of their potential and how far that potential has been exploited;

(c) how the natural gas is being used in the country; and

(d) whether it is proposed to set up an agency to work out $scheme_s$ for the maximum use of the available natural gas resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE 1 MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Natural gas has been located in the country in the following basins:

Cambay (onshore)

Kutch-Saurashtra (Offshore)

Upper Assam (onshore)

Assam-Arakan Fold belt (onshore)

Rajasthan (onshore)

Kroshna-Godavari(onshore & v offshore)

Cauvery (onshore & offshore) Bombay

offshore ' Andaman offshore

(b) The quantum of balance recove rable reserves of gas. estimated as *on* '1. 1. 86 i_n respect of the above basins are of the order of 497. 0 billion cubic metre.

(c) Natural gas is being put to various uses like power generation, fertilizer production, domestic use and other industrial purposes including the internal use by ONGC & OIL.

(d) Government, along with GAIL ONGC and OIL are planning the use of igas to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from it.